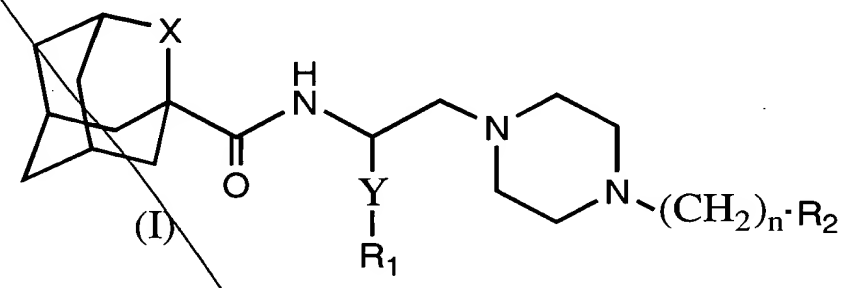
What is Claimed:

1. A compound of the formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

X is selected from $-CH_2-$ or a chemical bond;

Y is selected from $-(CH_2)_m-$ or $-(CH_2)-O-(CH_2)-$;

m is selected from the integer 0 or 1;

n is selected from the integer 0 or 1;

R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from the group consisting of aryl or heteroaryl of from 5 – 10 atoms optionally substituted with F, Cl, Br, I, -OH, $-NH_2$, $-CO_2H$, $-CO_2-C_1-C_6$ alkyl, -CN, $-NO_2$, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, C_1-C_6 perhaloalkyl, OR_3, or C_1-C_6 perhaloalkoxy;

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, C_6-C_{10} aryl, mono or bicyclic heteroaryl, C_7-C_{14} aralkyl, and mono or bicyclic heteroaralkyl, where the aryl or heteroaryl group is optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from the group consisting of F, Cl, Br, I, CN, $-NH_2$, $-NO_2$, -OH, alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, C_1-C_6 perhaloalkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, and C_1-C_6 perhaloalkoxy; and

the optical isomers or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound of Claim 1 having the formula:

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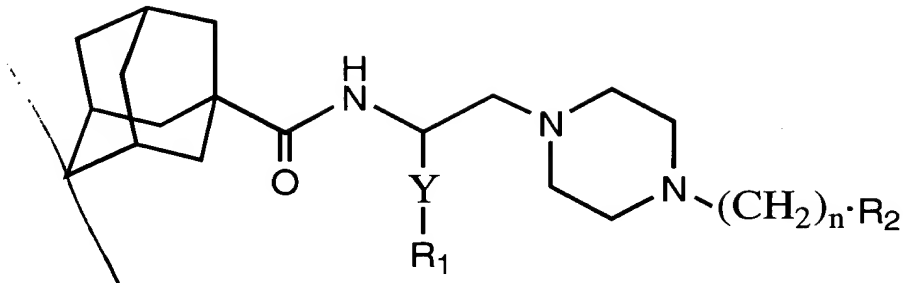


wherein:

Y is selected from $-(CH_2)_m-$ or $-(CH_2)-O-(CH_2)-$;

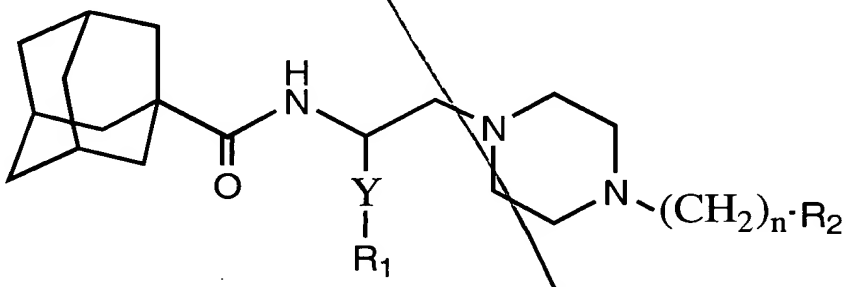
m is selected from the integer 0 or 1;

n is selected from the integer 0 or 1;

R_1 is phenyl optionally substituted with F, Cl, Br, I, -OH, $-NH_2$, $-CO_2H$, $-CO_2-C_1-C_6$ alkyl, -CN, $-NO_2$, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, C_1-C_6 perhaloalkyl or C_1-C_6 perhaloalkoxy;

R_2 is selected from phenyl, napthyl, piperazinyl, pyridine, thiophene, furan, imidazole, oxazole, pyrrole, pyrimidine, pyridazine, pyrazine, thiazole or oxathiazole; and the optical isomers or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. A compound of Claim 1 of the formula:



wherein:

Y is selected from $-CH_2-$;

m is selected from the integer 0 or 1;

n is selected from the integer 0 or 1;

R_1 is phenyl optionally substituted with F, Cl, Br, I, -OH, $-NH_2$, $-CO_2H$, $-CO_2-C_1-C_6$ alkyl, -CN, $-NO_2$, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, C_1-C_6 perhaloalkyl or C_1-C_6 perhaloalkoxy;

R_2 is phenyl or pyrimidinyl;

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and the optical isomers or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. A compound of Claim 1 which is (R)-N-[1-(Phenylmethyl)-2-[4-(phenylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl]ethyl]tricyclo[3.3.1.1^{3,7})]-decane-1-carboxamide Dihydrochloride Dihydrate.

5. A compound of Claim 1 which is (R)-Phenylalanine-N-[4-(phenylmethyl)-1-piperizinyl]carboxamide Dihydrochloride.

Sub B2

6. A compound of Claim 1 which is (R)-[1-(Phenylmethyl)-2-[(4-phenylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl]ethyl]amine.

7. A compound of Claim 1 which is (R)-N-[1-(Phenylmethyl)-2-[4-(phenylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl]ethyl]tricyclo-[3.3.1.1^{3,7})]-decane-1-carboxamide Dihydrochloride Dihydrate.

8. A compound of Claim 1 which is (S)-N-[1-(Phenylmethyl)-2-[4-(phenylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl]ethyl]tricyclo[3.3.1.1^{3,7})]-decane-1-carboxamide Dihydrochloride Dihydrate.

9. A compound of Claim 1 which is (R)-N-[1-(Phenylmethyl)-2-[4-(2-pyrimidinyl)-1-piperazinyl]ethyl]tricyclo[3.3.1.1^{3,7})]-decane-1-carboxamide Hemihydrate

10. A compound of Claim 1 which is (S)-N-[1-(Phenylmethyl)-2-[4-(2-pyrimidinyl)-1-piperazinyl]ethyl]tricyclo[3.3.1.1^{3,7})]-decane-1-carboxamide

11. A compound of Claim 1 which is (R)-N-[1-((Phenylmethoxy)methyl)-2-[4-(phenylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl]ethyl]tricyclo-[3.3.1.1^{3,7})]-decane-1-carboxamide Dihydrochloride Dihydrate

12. A compound of Claim 1 which is (R)-Adamantane-1-carboxylic acid [1-(phenylmethyl)-2-[4-(2-methoxyphenyl)-piperazinyl]ethyl]-amide Hemifumarate Hemihydrate.

13. A compound of Claim 1 which is (R)-[1-(Phenylmethyl)-2-[4-(2-methoxyphenyl)-1-piperazinyl]-2-oxo-ethyl]-carbamic acid tert-butyl ester.

14. A compound of Claim 1 which is (R)-Adamantane-1-carboxylic acid [1-(phenylmethyl)-2-[4-(2-methoxyphenyl)-piperazinyl]ethyl]-amide Hemifumarate Hemihydrate.

15. A compound of Claim 1 which is (S)-Adamantane-1-carboxylic acid [1-(phenylmethyl)-2-[4-(2-methoxyphenyl)-piperazinyl]ethyl]-amide Hemifumarate Hydrate.

16. A method for treating neurodegenerative disorders comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutical salt thereof, to a patient in need of said treatment.

17. The method of Claim 16 wherein the neurodegenerative disorder is chronic.

18. The method of Claim 16 wherein the neurodegenerative disorder is Alzheimer's Disease.

19. The method of Claim 16 wherein the neurodegenerative disorder is Huntington's Disease.

20. The method of Claim 16 wherein the neurodegenerative disorder is Parkinson's Disease.

21. The method of Claim 16 wherein the neurodegenerative disorder is AIDS dementia.

22. The method of Claim 16 wherein the neurodegenerative disorder is retinal disease.

23. The method of Claim 16 wherein the neurodegenerative disorder is epilepsy.

24. The method of Claim 16 wherein the neurodegenerative disorder is amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

25. The method of Claim 16 wherein the neurodegenerative disorder is acute.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein the neurodegenerative disorder is stroke.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein stroke is acute thromboembolic stroke.

28. The method of claim 26 wherein stroke is focal ischemia.

29. The method of claim 26 wherein stroke is global ischemia.

30. The method of claim 26 wherein stroke is transient ischemic attack.

31. The method of Claim 16 wherein the neurodegenerative disorder is ischemia resulting from a surgical technique involving prolonged halt of blood flow to the brain.

32. The method of claim 16 wherein the neurodegenerative disorder is head trauma.

33. The method of claim 16 wherein the neurodegenerative disorder is spinal trauma.

34. The method of claim 16 wherein the neurodegenerative disorder is hypoxia.

35. The method of claim 34 wherein the hypoxia is fetal hypoxia.

36. A method of neuroprotection comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to a patient in need thereof.

37. A method of treating chronic pain comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutical salt thereof, to a patient in need of said treatment.

38. The method of Claim 37 wherein the chronic pain is diabetic peripheral neuropathy.